BRIDGE RULES
IN
RHYME

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RHYMING RULES OF BRIDGE

H. C. DuVAL

PAFRAETS BOOK COMPANY
TROY NEW YORK 1902

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JAN 16 1903
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Oct. 30. 1902
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Oh Muse forgive me,
Critics all — desist,
My Rhymes, tho' bad,
Perchance may teach you Whist.

NO TRUMP MAKES

Aces three and guarded Queen
No Trump hand is plainly seen.

Aces four No Trump at once
Otherwise you'd be a dunce.

Aces three No Trump for then
Each in Honors counts as ten.

Guarded King in each array
With an Ace, No Trump's the play.

Aces two and guarded King
Say at once No Trump's the thing.

NO TRUMP LEADS

Holding six with King and Ace,
Fourth best on the table place.

Ace and King with five you hold,
Lead the King we're plainly told.

Holding four with King and Queen,
Fourth best is the play I ween.

Holding King and Queen and five,
Make the King your opening drive.

Ace and five, for proper lead
Fourth best will supply your need.

NO TRUMP LEADS

Ace and six, if this the case
Promptly lead out with the Ace.

Holding only King, Queen, Ace
Give the King the opening place.

If you're holding Queen, Jack, ten
Queen the first to call on then.

But if it is Ten, Jack, King
Leading Ten's the proper thing.

With a re-entry card,
Ace, Queen and Jack
Play Ace, then Queen
In making the attack.

But sans re-entry
It is plainly seen
With Ace, Queen, Jack
The best lead is the Queen.

DECLARED TRUMP LEADS

Short suits it is well to lead
If of trumps you stand in need.

No short suit lead we are told
If an Ace, King suit you hold.

Lead the King and smiling bland
Scan the cards in Dummy's hand.

If you have the deal, refuse
Either Clubs or Spades to choose.

If you're holding King or Ace
Lead the King to start the pace.

Holding Ace, King, Queen in hand
Lead the King you understand.

If you hold Ace, King and Jack
With the King begin attack.

King lead plainly will unfold
Ace or Queen or both you hold.

DOUBLING

Four tricks in Spades, or five to double,
Otherwise you're seeking trouble.

To double a Heart and take the tricks
Be sure of five and a possible six.

Doubling's wisest in the fight
If the maker's on your right.

HEART MAKES

Honors one in Hearts of six
Make it Hearts — you'll take the tricks.

Five in Hearts with Honors two
Hearts the "make" you surely do.

Four in Hearts with Honors three
And something else, Hearts make, you see.

Ace, King, Queen and one — Make Hearts
No one from this rule departs.

Sure Heart hand I much prefer
No Trump then would be to err.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

It is never well to name
Diamonds in a rubber game.

Diamonds you will never find
Wise when you're a game behind.

Diamonds or Hearts are grand
Honors four within your hand.

"Lead through strength is quite correct"
Up to weakness don't neglect.

If poverty your hand pervades
Take no chances, Make it Spades.

Best of Rules beyond a doubt,
Keep in mind what cards are out.

And of all things don't ignore
Carefully to watch the score.

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